

**College Avenue Presbyterian Church**  
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February 18, 2018

## Welcome to CAPC Oakland!

We are a reformed, multicultural, politically purple, community of followers of Jesus seeking to live our faith seriously in word, deed and relationships in the East Bay.

If you've never celebrated with us, you can follow along using this paper or the projection on the screen. Hymnals and Bibles are in the pews. We invite you to join us for a moment of community connection afterwards with a drink and simple snack.

### CHILDREN

We have a quiet play area for children in the front of the sanctuary with toys and coloring sheets that can be played with during services. We also have a lounge, off the entryway, where the service is broadcast if you need more space.

We invite children 3 years old to 6<sup>th</sup> grade to depart for Godly Play following our second song. You can gather your child(ren) after worship upstairs in the GP room.

### PRAYER CARDS

You're invited to share your prayers of concern or gratitude by filling out the cards, located in the pews, and placing them in the glass vase on the table. We'll use them during today's service.

### WIFI & SOCIAL MEDIA

2wire927 is our open wifi. The password is 7304088568. If you do social media during the service we invite you to add #capcoakland to include others.

### NESTLÉ PARKING LOT

We're able to park in the lot behind the church. They ask us to enter and exit off of Chabot Road, using the pedestrian door there near Crossroads Trading.

CCL #1137062

GATHERING SONG

"Did You Feel the Mountains Tremble"

- insert

CALL TO WORSHIP

- responsive reading

SONG OF PRAISE

"O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

- insert

CELEBRATING THE WIDTH AND DEPTH OF GOD'S GOOD CREATION  
THROUGH BLACK HISTORY MONTH

- Chickwendu Okereke

*Children from 2 years to 6<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to gather at the front of the sanctuary and depart for our Godly Play time. You can collect your child(ren) after the service upstairs.*

TIME OF CONFESSION

- responsive reading

*Silent Prayer followed by Prayer of Forgiveness and Assurance of Pardon*

SONG OF RESPONSE

"Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive"

- insert

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

*Call and response liturgically prayed at the conclusion of sharing a prayer card*

Leader: God, in your mercy.

**People: Hear our prayer.**

*To pray with someone after the service, look for today's liturgist after today's service*

GIVING OF OUR TITHES & OFFERINGS TO EMPOWER THE WORK OF GOD IN THE CHURCH

OFFERTORY SONG

"Lift Every Voice And Sing"

- insert, verse 3

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

READING OF SCRIPTURE

John 11:1-45

- Readers' Theatre  
pp. 1039

SERMON

"Good Grief"

- Rev. Monte McClain

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

SONG OF RESPONSE

"In Christ Alone"

- Blue Hymnal #339

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENDING CALL AND RESPONSE

Leader: God is good!

Leader: And all the time!

**People: All the time!**

**People: God is good!**

EXHORTATION & BENEDICTION

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

"Ping An"

(Chinese, Mandarin)

*We pass the peace weekly using languages native to the cultures of our church community*

*as an audible sign of the Dominion of God at work towards the healing transformation of the world.*

"Happy New Year" or 'New Year goodness!'

新年好 In Mandarin: [sshin-nyen haoww]

新年好 In Cantonese: [sen-nin haow]

## Thoughts on Today's Scripture

### John 11:1-45

This week's scripture is filled with contrasts and paradoxes. Jesus is the word, from the beginning, in whom is life. The light that shines invincibly in the darkness. (John 1:1-5) Yet here we see that the life he gives to Lazarus, is the very thing that leads to Jesus' death sentence. This story is followed by John 11:45-54 which concludes with the narrative explanation "So from that day on [the ruling council of the chief priests and the Pharisees] planned to put Jesus to death."



All of the miraculous signs of Jesus point to who he is and what he has come to give humanity. This is the seventh and final "sign" in John's gospel. None of them are more closely related to the reality of resurrection life given to us in Christ than this story of Lazarus rising from the dead. As we've seen in our other stories in John, here too we encounter elements of comedy and confusion. The disciples think Lazarus is just asleep. Jesus lingers for another two days, rather than acting immediately upon the news of the illness of Lazarus and the demand for help from his sisters. Jesus weeps – the only time. Yet doesn't he know or foresee the end of the story? Lazarus is bound in his burial shroud, yet it's Jesus who the crowd tries to bind, begging him not to open the tomb for the stench will be unbearable.

This sign, the seventh and final one (and most "holy" - don't forget the unique importance of the number 7 in the Jewish tradition) is pointed back to from John's closing epilogue statement in John 20:30-31: "30 Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. 31 But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name." It's not just the signs, but the experience of Jesus as living and as life, despite his crucifixion and seeming defeat, that exegetes, explains, gives and invites to life.

In this first week of Lent we observe the ancient church practice of imposing ashes as a sign of the cross on foreheads of worshippers on Ash Wednesday. While it might seem to be arcane, and a sign for those who "belong" on the inside, it's in fact a sign pointing to this word of life – both in the scripture and the living word we believe is risen, active, (re)creating in the world. Like Lazarus, we're often bound by the boxes into which we are put. How is this sign of life abundant and eternal a freeing word for us today?

### Questions for the practice of Examen & Contemplation

- What shimmers for you in this story?
- With whom do you identify in the story? Why?
- Is this story more about Mary's confession of faith of Lazarus being raised from the dead? Why?
- How do the story of this miraculous sign and radical confession of faith intersect and touch your own life today? How is God speaking to you in these words?

## ANNOUNCEMENTS & COMMUNITY NEWS

### February Birthdays

16 Mryna Shadley 21 Elena Wenzler

## UPCOMING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Care Givers Support Group** | Today, 3-5 pm  
2600 Warring St., Berkeley

**NO Youth Group tonight**

**CAPC Choir** | Talk to Pete for rehearsals times.

**Celtic Prayer Mid Week Small Group** | Wed 7-8:30pm, near CAL | Call Marda @ 540.7173

**Friday Night Meal** Fridays 6-7pm

**The Vocabulary of Faith** | Sundays 9:30-10:20am, in the Library – studying John's gospel

**Session Meeting** | Thursday, 2/22 7:30-9pm

**Deacons Meeting** | Next Sunday, 2/25<sup>th</sup> after worship.

**Thinking Theologically** | Discussion James Cone & Jesus as Black in Black Theology : Monday, March 5<sup>th</sup> 7:30-8:30pm. Pick up the reading in the entry or online at [www.capcoakland.org/thinking-theologically](http://www.capcoakland.org/thinking-theologically)

**NO ESL Class at Primera Iglesia this week** | Because of the President's Day holiday

**Tax Deduction Letters for 2017** | If you haven't receive one, or yours is incorrect, contact Mahri in the office at [capc1@sbcglobal.net](mailto:capc1@sbcglobal.net)

**LENT: giving up and taking on** | Are you looking for spiritual practices to enrich your 40 day celebration of Lent as we approach Easter? Find ideas on our website page for just that at: [www.capcoakland.org/spiritual-practices](http://www.capcoakland.org/spiritual-practices)

### Thank you to today's Leadership

Ushers: Chickwendu Okereke

Reader: Readers' Theatre

Black Hist Month: Chickwendu Okereke

Fellowship: Sharon Nelson, Anne Marie Adams

Godly Play: Bill Beatty (ST); Maya Patil (DK)

Musicians: Dave Eagle, Kevin Goldberg, Pete Feltman

### Leadership for next week, 2/25/18:

Ushers: Sharon Nelson, Anne Marie Adams

Reader: Readers' Theatre

Black Hist Month: Cameron Beatty

Fellowship: Patt Schroeder, Gary Yee

Godly Play: David Kittams (ST); Emma Fleming (DK)

## LYRICS & WRITTEN RESPONSES FOR TODAY'S WORSHIP

### **"Did You Feel The Mountains Tremble"**

*Martin Smith*

Did you feel the mountains tremble,  
Did you hear the oceans roar  
When the people rose to sing  
of Jesus Christ, the risen one  
Did you feel the people tremble?  
Did you hear the singers roar?  
When the lost began to sing  
of Jesus Christ the saving one

And we can see that God, You're moving  
A mighty river through the nations  
And young and old return to Jesus  
Fling wide You heavenly gates  
Prepare the way of the risen Lord

*chorus*

Open up the doors and let the music play  
Let the streets resound with singing  
Songs that bring Your hope  
and songs that bring Your joy  
Dancers who dance upon injustice

Do you feel the darkness tremble,  
When all the saints join in one song  
And all the streams flow as one river,  
to wash away our brokenness  
And here we see that God You're moving,  
A time of Jubilee is coming  
When young and old will turn to Jesus  
Fling wide you heavenly gates,  
Prepare the way of the risen Lord

*chorus*

### **Call to Worship || Responsive Reading**

*The community is invited to respond to each phrase in the bold font.  
The reader reads the plain font. ~ (inspired from Ezekiel 37)  
taken from <http://www.ministrymatters.com>*

One: Our lives often feel all disjointed  
as though they were a valley of dry bones.

**People: But the Spirit of God will bring  
connection and continuity to our lives.**

One: The Spirit of God breathes hope  
into each one of us.

**People: The Spirit of God challenges us  
to be people of faith.**

Continued next column...

One: Open our hearts, Lord, and bring us to your light.

**People: Open our lives, Lord, and break us free  
from doubt and fear.**

### **"O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing My dear Redeemer's praise"**

*Author: Charles Wesley (1739)  
Blue Hymnal 466*

1 O for a thousand tongues to sing  
My great Redeemer's praise,  
The glories of my God and King,  
The triumphs of God's grace!

2 Jesus, the name that charms our fears,  
That bids our sorrows cease;  
'Tis music in the sinner's ears,  
'Tis life, and health, and peace.

3 Christ breaks the power of reigning sin,  
And sets the prisoner free;  
Christ's blood can make the sinful clean,  
Christ's blood availed for me.

4 My gracious Master and my God,  
Assist me to proclaim,  
To spread through all the earth abroad  
The honors of Thy name.

### **Prayer of Confession**

In the midst of the ever present stream of injustices  
inflicted upon the weak, the poor, and the marginalized  
we confess our complicity in nurturing the status quo  
through silence and inaction.

Unlike past and present day prophets,  
we stood by while our sisters and brothers suffered  
at the hands of the privileged and powerful.  
So often, we turned a blind eye to the sufferings of  
those who were looked down upon because of  
powerlessness, poverty, or the hue of their skin.  
May we be in right relationship with you and all your  
creation and join in your kingdom work of over-coming  
violence, hunger, and injustice.

May we find courage and clarity to assist us  
in works of justice and compassion  
which make daily life bearable for many.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen. In Jesus' name. Amen

~ written in part by the Rev. Julius Jefferson, Senior Pastor, Heritage UCC  
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Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44115-1100

## Blessing/Assurance of Pardon

Brothers and Sisters,

God hears our prayers and, even in our human frailty,  
promises to be with us in the wilderness times.  
Observe, find comfort, and offer with courage  
to restore and build relationships among God's people.  
Experience a new and renewed sense of hope

## “Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive”

*(Land Of Rest Tune)*

1 Forgive our sins as we forgive  
You taught us Lord to pray  
But You alone can grant us grace  
To live the words we say

2 How can your pardon reach and bless  
the unforgiving heart  
That broods on wrongs  
and will not let old bitterness depart

3 In blazing light Your cross reveals  
the truth we dimly knew  
What trivial debts are owed to us  
how great our debt to you

4 Lord cleanse the depths within our souls  
and bid resentment cease  
Then bound to all in bonds of love  
our lives will spread Your peace

## “Lift Every Voice And Sing”

*James Weldon Johnson, 1871 – 1938*

3. God of our weary years, God of silent tears  
Thou who has brought us thus far on the way  
Thou who hast by thy might led us into the light  
Keep us forever in the path we pray  
Lest our feet stray from the places  
our God where we meet thee  
Lest our hearts drunk  
with the wine of the world we forget thee  
Shadowed beneath thy hand  
may we forever stand  
True to our God, true to our native land

## “In Christ Alone”

*Keith Getty (music)*

*Stuart Townend (lyrics), 2001*

1 In Christ alone my hope is found  
He is my light, my strength, my song  
this cornerstone, this solid ground  
firm through the fiercest drought and storm  
What heights of love, what depths of peace  
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease  
My comforter, my all in all  
here in the love of Christ I stand

2 In Christ alone, who took on flesh  
fullness of God in helpless Babe  
This gift of love and righteousness  
scorned by the ones He came to save  
'Til on that cross as Jesus died  
the wrath of God was satisfied  
For ev'ry sin on Him was laid  
here in the death of Christ I live

3 There in the ground His body lay  
Light of the world by darkness slain  
then, bursting forth in glorious day  
up from the grave He rose again  
And as He stands in victory  
sin's curse has lost its grip on me  
for I am His and He is mine  
bought with the precious blood of Christ

4 No guilt in life, no fear in death  
this is the pow'r of Christ in me  
from life's first cry to final breath  
Jesus commands my destiny  
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man  
can ever pluck me from His hand  
'til He returns or calls me home  
here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand

